



JUDICIAL PROFILE

Steven D. Sheldon currently is assigned to Family Court. He previously served on Special Assignment, handling difficult and complex cases or matters reassigned from other judges. He also has presided over civil and criminal matters. Judge Sheldon received an undergraduate degree in Business Administration from California State Polytechnic University in Pomona in 1971. He graduated cum laude in 1974 from Loyola University School of Law. He was admitted to the Arizona Bar and the Federal District Court for Arizona in 1974. He was an associate with the Phoenix law firm of Evans, Kitchel & Jencks. From 1977 to 1982 he was a Special Agent with the FBI, specializing in criminal and foreign counter-intelligence investigations. He then became a staff attorney with the Arizona Court of Appeals and in 1986 was promoted to Vice Chief Staff Attorney. He was appointed to the Bench in 1989.



Judge Sheldon has been actively involved in efforts to examine the role of juries in criminal trials. He spearheaded a Superior Court pilot project to reduce the stress jurors feel during and after trial. He also served on a National Center for State Court's panel studying juror stress. In 1992, he presided over the first dual-jury case conducted in Maricopa County. He is a sought-after instructor within the legal community on issues ranging from trial evidence to appellate practice. He has served on the Tempe City Court Judicial Selection Committee, the Tempe Judicial Evaluation Panel and is a past member of the Judicial College of Arizona's Board of Directors. He is a former member of the Board of Directors of the Tempe Center for Habilitation. He served as both vice-president and secretary of the Tempe South Rotary. Between 1986 and 1989 he was a mediator for the Phoenix Community Mediation program, and was awarded Outstanding Mediator of 1987. He has served on various court and law-related committees. Judge Sheldon served in the U.S. Navy from 1965 to 1969. He served overseas on board the USS Bryce Canyon, at Guam Naval Radio Station, and completed a one year tour of duty at Nha Be in Vietnam.